

House Resolution No. 4197

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives were truly saddened to learn of the death of former Negro Leagues star Theodore Roosevelt "Double Duty" Radcliffe on Thursday, August 11, 2005, in Chicago, Illinois, at the age of 103. Mr. Radcliffe was believed to be the oldest living professional baseball player; and

Whereas, born in Mobile, Alabama, Mr. Radcliffe was a Negro League baseball legend who played for more than 15 teams, including the Detroit Stars, the Chicago American Giants, Homestead Grays, Brooklyn Eagles, and the Kansas City Monarchs; and

Whereas, in 1932, Mr. Radcliffe was given the nickname "Double Duty" by a New York sportswriter when Mr. Radcliffe played both games of a doubleheader for the Pittsburgh Crawfords in the 1932 Negro League World Series. In the first game, he caught a Satchel Paige three-hit shutout and hit a three-run homerun. After a twenty minute rest, he pitched a 6-0 shutout in the second game and hit a bases-loaded double; and

Whereas, while strict records for the minor leagues from those days were not kept, Mr. Radcliffe played for or coached for 30 teams in his career, recorded an estimated 4,000 hits and 400 home runs, and won 500 games with 4,000 strikeouts as a pitcher; and

Whereas, while playing with the Kansas City Monarchs in 1945, Mr. Radcliffe roomed with Jackie Robinson two years before Robinson broke baseball's color barrier in the majors, and at the age of 96 became the oldest man to appear in a professional game when he threw a single pitch for the Schaumburg Flyers in an independent Northern League game; and

Whereas, Mr. Radcliffe was frequently in the crowd at U.S. Cellular Field and occasionally visited the White Sox clubhouse. Since 1999, Mr. Radcliffe made it a tradition to throw out the first ball on his July 7th birthday; and

Whereas, Theodore Radcliffe was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Alberta; and is survived by numerous nieces and nephews:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-third General Assembly, join unanimously to memorialize the life and baseball career of the late Theodore Roosevelt "Double Duty" Radcliffe and to convey this legislative body's most heartfelt condolences to all of his family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues who now miss his considerable strength, warmth, and light in their daily lives; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in memory of Theodore Roosevelt Radcliffe of Chicago, Illinois.

Offered by _____
Representative Sharon Sanders Brooks
District No. 37

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, do
certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House
Resolution No. 4197, adopted August 15, 2005.

Rod Jetton, Speaker